

FASHION'S LATEST WORD IN SMART CREATIONS

BY FRANCES MARSHALL

The Wide Use of Fur and the Continued Use of Taffeta are Two Noticeable Features of Mid-Winter

Never before has fur been so lavishly used as it is in this winter season of 1915. And never before has it been so effectively used. It seems to be perfectly adapted to the styles that prevail. Dressmakers have mastered its use. And as manufacturers give us fur in all of its natural beauty, the result is highly satisfactory.

It is an interesting fact that in our modern civilization the seasons are anticipated to such an extent that hardly has the cold of real winter called out our furs before the rush of travelers Southward and the activity of the Paris dressmakers have turned our thoughts to spring. It is rather pleasant to cogitate on a time in the imagined

past when the first snowdrops were the first sign of spring and when women donned summery clothes only with the coming of warm weather.

Economy in Furs.

The use of fur this winter should suggest many economical ideas to the woman who must limit her expenditures for clothing rather strictly. Its use suggests the use of left-overs in the world of cookery. Here is a strip of one sort of fur—here a strip of another sort. And the woman with clever fingers, or a clever seamstress, and a box of left-over bits of fur can copy many of the distinguishing notes of the newest frocks and coats.

To begin with, there is the banding of fur on the frock for evening or afternoon. A tulle tunic that is quite inexpensive can be edged with strips of any dark fur, and dropped over a satin founda-

tion skirt to produce a very good evening frock. Fur bands made of carefully selected portions of an old fur collar can be used around the top of the collar and the ends of the long sleeves of a one-piece frock of serge. Collar and cuffs, too, can be cut out of a worn muff and collar set for a cloth coat.

One of the new notes in fashionable apparel suggests still another use for "left-over" fur. There are some lovely sweaters, of soft, silky wool in dull blue, rose, green, and yellow that have rolling collars that fasten snugly about the throat of brown fur. They are as warm as they are attractive, and one could easily apply a fur collar to a hand-knitted or crocheted sweater with very good results.

But our thoughts do turn to summer clothes in midwinter, and all the cogitating in the world will not change that. The shop windows, the clothes we ourselves have chosen for the Southern resorts of pleasure and comfort, or those of our more fortunate friends all tempt us to think about our own summer wardrobe.

The hats that have been shown so far are perhaps the most attractive of the "summer" clothes.

They are both large and small, and they are fashioned from straw far more generally than were last summer's hats. Of course, these harbingers may not influence our summer hats materially. At present at any rate they are interesting.

One smart model that is in the possession of a fashionable woman

on the way to Palm Beach is a rather high toque of shiny gray straw. It is trimmed with a big bow of straw lined with black chiffon and two black and gray straw ornaments in the front like the heads of big hat pins.

Another hat that is decidedly striking is made of sand colored straw. It is small, and the top of the crown is made of inch wide corded sand ribbon, laced in and out. Around the turned-up brim are three bands of the ribbon, fastening in front under simulated buttonholes marked by big silk-covered buttons.

The small hat is still in the majority. And for that reason the flowing veil will probably retain attention for some time to come. Fastened neatly and securely about a small hat, its loose edge rippling over the shoulders, it is highly effective. It is made either of lace in a fine, all-over design, or of net,

edged with gros-grain or velvet ribbon.

Taffeta is one of the fabrics that is baffling. It was not accepted by Americans when France took it up a few seasons ago. Then, rather unexpectedly, it became tremendously popular, almost common-

place, here. Last autumn it was dropped. But here it is in some of the new frocks for the South. And as yet nobody knows whether or not it will be a summer fabric. It is decidedly well adapted to the fashion of wide, flaring skirts, and that may account for its use now.



Sand-colored straw hat for Southern wear. It is trimmed with a black leather fancy and a band of black velvet ribbon.



Green cloth suit trimmed with black fur and a small black velvet hat trimmed with green flowers and worn with one of the new lace veils.



Evening frock of striped chiffon, banded with white fur. The top of the bodice is made of tulle, and there is a heavy, high fur collar, a feature of some of the smart evening frocks of the season.



Taffeta and lace cleverly combined, with long chiffon sleeves that drop at the shoulders over bare arms.



Evening gown of pink taffeta and white tulle. The skirt is formed of two tulle tunics bound with taffeta and the taffeta bodice is finished with shoulder straps of tulle.



Little girl's coat of brown, with ermine trimming.



Blue cloth frock, with black braiding and black satin girdle, and white fur collar, cuffs and hem and white broadcloth vest.